

REMARKS

Restriction has been required to limit the invention to the Figures of one of what the Examiner has determined to be the following species:

Species I: Fig. 1 (directed to a fixed conduit)

Species II: Figs. 2 - 4 (directed to segmented liquid conduit with a hinge 16)

The Examiner is of the opinion that the species, as grouped, are distinct and patently distinct from each other. It is submitted that since Claim 1 is admitted to be generic, and further since there is no claim restriction, all claims should continue in this case for examination. This suggests that the restriction requirement itself is improper, and should be withdrawn. Thus, withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

In order to be fully responsive to the Official Action, Applicant elects to retain the embodiments of Species I for further prosecution in the subject case. But Applicant reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications or to take other appropriate action to protect the embodiments lying within Species II.

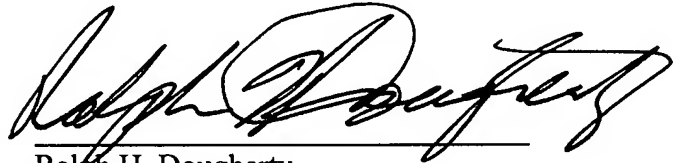
Claims 1 through 6 read on the embodiments of Species I and Species II.

Claims 7 through 17 read on the embodiments of Species II.

In view of the foregoing remarks, withdrawal of the restriction requirement is requested.

Further, an action on the merits of the subject application is now believed to be in order, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph H. Dougherty", written over a horizontal line.

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